



TINA KOTEK  
GOVERNOR

July 21, 2025

Kris Strickler, Director  
Oregon Department of Transportation  
355 Capitol Street NE, MS 11  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Director Strickler,

I am writing to direct you to postpone the effective date of the planned layoffs to September 15, 2025. The purpose of this extension is to provide more time for the bumping process to conclude prior to any actual employment separations.

My direction follows the receipt of written assurance from legislative leadership that we are in agreement that a special session should happen as soon as possible to address the agency's budget gap. This direction today in no way minimizes the necessity and urgency for a special session, which I remain steadfastly working towards. The commitment from legislative leaders to provide resources for this postponement should be taken for what it is: a thin, timebound safety net to make sure that additional costs generated through the delay will not lead to deeper cuts in the second wave of reductions.

I recognize the real impact to the dedicated public servants who received notice of layoff earlier this month. The reality of these reductions not only to ODOT employees and their families, but also to the communities who rely on the basic services these employees provide, is significant and painful. With this extension, ODOT employees will be afforded more time to plan for the future and to ensure they and their families maintain health benefits through the month of October.

While I continue to work with the legislature to provide a longer-term solution alleviating the need for these reductions, ODOT must continue to execute the planned reduction including carrying out the contractual bumping process. I know this entire process has been disruptive and disheartening. I am working continuously to be able to call for the revocation of all layoffs, but for now we must plan for these reductions to take effect September 15, 2025.

Sincerely,

Governor Tina Kotek